

CLAIM AMENDMENT

1. -3. (canceled)

1           4. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim 1~~  
2       wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3       substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4       mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5       with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6       elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7       relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8       enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9       column, said connector includes including a pair of strips affixed  
10      to opposite faces of said one of said wall elements and projecting  
11      beyond said edge of said one of said wall elements to form a said  
12      slot receiving the other wall element and overlapping opposite  
13      faces thereof at said edge of said other wall element.

1           5. (currently amended): ~~The partition defined in claim 1~~  
2       wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3       substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4       mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5       with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6       elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7       relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to

8       enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9       column, said connector includes including a first strip mounted on  
10      said one of said wall elements parallel to said edge of said one of  
11      said wall elements and a spacer between said strip and a face of  
12      said one of said wall elements whereby said strip defines a slot  
13      with said one of said wall elements along the edge of said one of  
14      said wall elements, said slot receiving said edge of said other  
15      wall element, said strip overlapping said other of said wall  
16      elements.

1           6. (currently amended) : The partition defined in claim 1  
2       wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3       substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4       mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5       with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6       elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7       relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8       enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9       column, said connector includes including a step formed in said  
10      edge of said one of said wall elements in which said edge of said  
11      other wall element is received, and a strip juxtaposed with said  
12      other wall element, secured to said one of said wall elements and  
13      defining a said slot with said step, in which said edge of said  
14      other wall elements is being received in said slot.

1           7. (currently amended) : ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2       1, further comprising A partition for a column having means for  
3       separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at  
4       least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially  
5       contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one  
6       of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element  
7       enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes  
8       thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of  
9       said column, and a strip of stepped cross section secured to said  
10      one of said wall elements and forming said connector, said strip  
11      defining said slot receiving said edge of said other wall element.

8. (canceled).

1           9. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim 1~~  
2       wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3       substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4       mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5       with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6       elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7       relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8       enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9       column, said connector includes including at least one strip  
10      connected by spot welds to said one of said wall elements along  
11      said edge of said one of said wall elements.

10., 11. (canceled)

1           12. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~1 wherein A partition for a column having means for separation of~~  
3 ~~substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two~~  
4 ~~mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously~~  
5 ~~with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall~~  
6 ~~elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling~~  
7 ~~relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to~~  
8 ~~enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said~~  
9 ~~column, said connector includes including at least one strip~~  
10 ~~fastened along said edge of said one of said wall elements and~~  
11 ~~secured thereto by threaded bolt connections.~~

13. (canceled)

1           14. (currently amended): ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~1, further comprising A partition for a column having means for~~  
3 ~~separation of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at~~  
4 ~~least two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially~~  
5 ~~contiguously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one~~  
6 ~~of said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element~~  
7 ~~enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes~~  
8 ~~thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of~~  
9 ~~said column, and~~

10               sealing elements along at least one edge of the partition  
11       contacting a wall of said column.

1               15. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2       ~~14 wherein said A partition for a column having means for separa-~~  
3       ~~tion of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least~~  
4       ~~two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contigu-~~  
5       ~~ously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of~~  
6       ~~said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element~~  
7       ~~enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes~~  
8       ~~thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of~~  
9       ~~said column, and sealing elements along at least one edge of the~~  
10      ~~partition contacting a wall of said column, said sealing elements~~  
11      ~~are being composed of thin slitted sheet metal or a metal fabric.~~

1               16. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2       ~~14 wherein said A partition for a column having means for separa-~~  
3       ~~tion of substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least~~  
4       ~~two mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contigu-~~  
5       ~~ously with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of~~  
6       ~~said wall elements receiving an edge of the other wall element~~  
7       ~~enabling relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes~~  
8       ~~thereof to enable said partition to span between opposite sides of~~  
9       ~~said column, and sealing elements along at least one edge of the~~  
10      ~~partition contacting a wall of said column, said sealing elements~~  
11      ~~are being resilient sealing lips.~~

1           17. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~1 wherein,~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9 column, lateral faces of said wall elements are being rectangular  
10 or triangular.

1           18. (currently amended) ~~The partition defined in claim~~  
2 ~~1 wherein,~~ A partition for a column having means for separation of  
3 substance or for a chemical reaction, comprising at least two  
4 mutually parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously  
5 with one another, and a connector along an edge of one of said wall  
6 elements receiving an edge of the other wall element enabling  
7 relative adjustment of said wall elements in planes thereof to  
8 enable said partition to span between opposite sides of said  
9 column, said connector includes including at least one strip  
10 overlapping said other all element and affixed to said one of said  
11 wall elements and forming a sealing connection between said wall  
12 elements at said edges thereof.

----- 19. -- (canceled) -----

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20. (canceled)